一年の時、
小豆島での初試合。
途中、外野で出場し結果は・・・・
栄純と同じバンザイでした(泣)。

寺

Shonen Magazine Comics

3

KCM3767

KC

ダイヤのA エース

「俺はこんな野球バカが大好きだ!!」

ダイヤのA エース

パンチ佐藤氏絶賛!!

寺嶋裕二

3

寺嶋裕二

講談社

雑誌 42265-67

9784063637670

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C9979 ¥400E (0)

1929979004002

Ace of Diamond

AT THE 'ACELESS' SEIDOU HIGH SCHOOL, THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS MATCH UP FOR A GAME WITH THE ADVANCED PLAYERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF UNEARTHING A GOOD FIRST-YEAR PITCHER. THE ONE TO [illegible] THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS, WHO WERE ASSIGNED TO THE [illegible] AGAINST THE OVERWHELMING POWER OF THE ADVANCED PLAYERS, WAS EI-JUN! THE HEAD COACH, SEEING EI-JUN'S OBSESSION WITH GETTING A WIN, MADE THE CALL TO PUT EI-JUN ON THE MOUND. EI-JUN WAS FIRED UP TO GET HIS CHANCE ON THE MOUND, BUT FIRST HE MUST COME TO KNOW THE [illegible] OF HAVING A SERIOUS BATTLE AGAINST HIS OWN [illegible]

野球にかける熱き想い。
勝負を挑む緊張感。
白球を追う時の真っ白な気持ち。
高校野球のすべてがここに――。

感動と興奮の本格野球ドラマ!!

絶賛好評発売中

KC 寺嶋裕二作品

■GIANT STEP 全4巻
■ダイヤのA ①～
以下続刊

KCM3767「ダイヤのA」© 363767-0

3
YUJI TERAJIMA
ダイヤのA
エース
ACE OF DIAMONDS

一年の時、
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3

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KC MAGAZINE

ダイヤのA エース

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講談社

Weekly Shonen Magazine Presents
Ace of Diamond
寺嶋裕二

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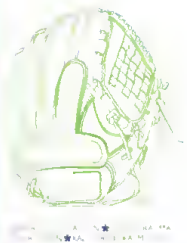
Ace of Diamond

「エース不在」の青道高校で、
一年生からも投手を発掘するために組まれた上級生との試合。
圧倒的な上級生の力になす術もない一年生チームの雰囲気を変えたのは沢村だった！
勝利への執念を見た監督は沢村にマウンドへ上がるよう指示。
待ちに待った登板に燃える沢村だったが、
同室の先輩・増子との真剣勝負に
レギュラーどりの厳しさを思い知る…!?

絶賛好評発売中
KC 寺嶋裕二作品
■GIANT STEP 全4巻
■ダイヤのA ①～
以下続刊



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●掲載／週刊少年マガジン2006年第38号～第46号

この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは、
一切関係ありません。

CONTENTS

A

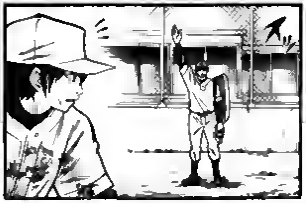
I'M GOING TO SLAM YOU!!
OOOOOOOOOH

SAFE!!
FINALLY A FRESHMAN GOT US A RUN!!!
THE HITTER WAS GREAT BUT...
THE RUNNER WHO WENT FOR THAT BRAVE SLAM WAS GREAT TOO!!
WE DID IT!!
WHOOOOOOA!
ダイヤのA エース

WE DID IT ...
THAT GUY... WITH THAT TIMING HE WAS DEFINITELY OUT.
HEH HEH ...
HE TWISTED HIS BODY AT THE LAST SECOND AND REACHED THE BASE.
I WENT TO TAG HIM AND HE DODGED THE MIT.

うおおおおお
IF DONE WRONG, HE WOULD INJURE HIS SHOULDERS AND BACK...
GOT IIIIIT !!!
COULD HE REALLY TWIST HIS BODY WHILE SLIDING LIKE THAT!?
DIRECTOR ...
SHIT
すげー
THIS GUY REALLY MADE IT HOME ...
...
DO YOU REALLY PLAN TO END THE GAME IN THIS INNING?
WE CAN'T LET THE GAME END WITH TWO WORTHLESS FIRST-YEARS GETTING HITS!!
WAHAHAHA

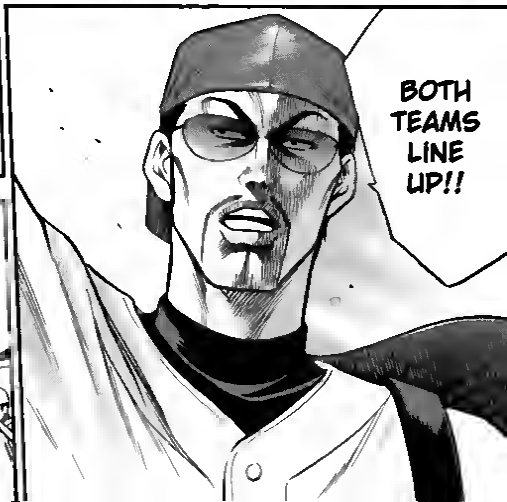
Y...YEAH!
ALL WE GOT WAS ONE RUN, BUT THE GAME IS JUST STARTING !!!
GET READY TO BRING IT !!!



THE THIRD-YEARS CAN'T LET IT END LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
YEAH, THAT GUY STIRRED THEM UP SINGLE-HANDEDLY
THE FIRST-YEAR BENCH SPRUNG TO LIFE OUT OF NOWHERE, HUH

HUH?

D... DIRECTOR !!!

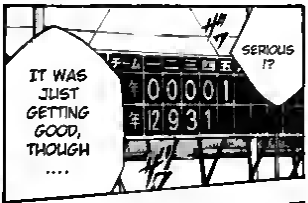

BOTH TEAMS LINE UP!!

THAT'S THE GAME
IF WE KEEP GOING THE POINT-DIFFERENCE IS ONLY GOING TO KEEP GROWING ...

WHA!?

ASSHOLE ...
HOWEVER ...

GRR


SERIOUS !?
IT WAS JUST GETTING GOOD, THOUGH ....

IF HIS AIM WAS JUST TO FIND PLAYERS TO MOVE UP TO FIRST STRING, THEN THAT'S THAT.

IF ALL OF THE FIRST YEAR STUDENTS WANT TO CONTINUE THE GAME ...
THEN, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY ...

!
HHN?

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!?
YOU WANT IT TO END LIKE THIS!?

BUT ...

WHAT'LL IT BE?

WE HAVE NO IDEA WHEN A CHANCE LIKE THIS WILL COME AGAIN!!
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH AND SAY YOU GAVE IT ALL YOU HAD!?
.....

THEIR LEAD GREW THANKS TO YOUR 'JUMP FOR JOY', DIDN'T IT?
YEAH ...
HOW CAN A PERSON WHO GOT TO FIRST OFF OF AN UNCAUGHT THIRD STRIKE ACT THIS HIGH AND MIGHTY?
HUH?
SHUT UP ...
I MEAN, WHY HAS THIS IDIOT BEEN RUNNING THE SHOW?
OH?
WE DIDN'T ALL COME TO THIS BASEBALL TEAM CLUB JUST BECAUSE WE'RE FANS OF IT!!
I DON'T PLAN TO LOSE TO YOU AT ANYTHING!
THERE'S NO WAY WE DON'T FEEL FRUSTRATED TOO!!
THESE GUYS, JUST HAVE A LOT OF PRIDE, IS ALL...
WHAT'D YOU SAY !!!?
D-DYOU GUYS HATE ME!?
SOMEONE WHO WAS A CADET UNTIL YESTERDAY SHOULDN'T TRY TO ACT LIKE OUR CAPTAIN!!
THESE GUYS ARE STILL FULL OF ENERGY, HUH...
HA HA HA

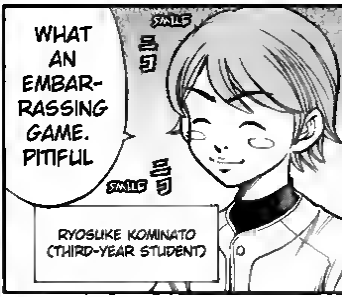
PLEASE LET US CONTINUE!
LET US CONTINUE PLEASE! PLEASE!
PLEASE, DIRECTOR!
WHY DIDN'T YOU ALL TAKE THE FIELD WITH THAT KIND OF SPIRIT FROM THE BEGINNING?
...
PLEASE
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL THERE IS NOTHING ELSE FOR YOU!!
PUNK ...

FROM THIS INNING ON, YOU'RE THE PITCHER
HURRY UP AND GET ON THE MOUND !!!

HH?
.....
SO THAT I'D GET TO SEE YOU TRY-OUT AS A PITCHER, THEN PITCH!
HMMPF IF YOU WANTED TO CONTINUE THIS GAME
WAY TO GO!
....
HEY, HEY,. WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
HUH? THE GAME HASN'T ENDED YET?
.....
HH
HH
THE DIRECTOR ISN'T A HEARTLESS OGRE...
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT HE GETS A CHANCE.
NO MATTER WHAT, THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OUT OF THE FIRST-YEARS WAS HIM

SHALL WE GO FOR 300 RUNS!?
DAMMMMIT !! A GAME AGAINST THE FRESHMEN !?
HYA HA HA, JUN COULDN'T EVEN DO 200!
YOICHI KURAMOCHI (SECOND-YEAR STUDENT)
JUN ISASHIKI (THIRD-YEAR STUDENT)

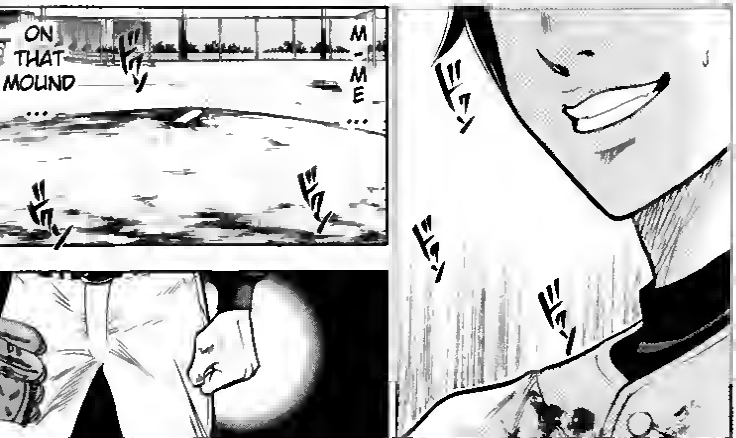
SHUT UP AND WATCH, JUN ...
TETSUYA YUKI (THIRD-YEAR STUDENT)


WHAT AN EMBARRASSING GAME. PITIFUL
SMILE
SMILE
RYOSUKE KOMINATO (THIRD-YEAR STUDENT)

JUN, YOU CAN'T! YOU JUST FINISHED LIFTING WEIGHTS ...
SWITCH OUT!!! I'M GOING IN!

WHAT!?
HE'S THE GUY THAT STRUCK OUT THE GREAT KIYOKUNI ....
YOU MISSED IT BECAUSE YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL, RIGHT?

EVEN THOUGH THESE GUYS HAVE THE DAY OFF... THEY WENT FOR PRACTICE?
WELL, YOU COULD SAY THAT.
HOW IS HE? IS THIS SAWAMURA GUY DOING WELL?


ON THAT MOUND ....
M-ME ...

WHAT ARE THE THIRD-YEARS GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT CURVEBALL ..?
FINALLY, YOUR FAVORITE IS GOING UP ON THE MOUND, HUH?
HMN?
THIS OUGHT TO BE SOMETHING
THIS MIGHT MAKE YOU LAUGH BUT, WHAT GOT MY ATTENTION WITH THIS KID WAS MORE THAN JUST THAT PITCH
I SOMETIMES VISIT LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL GAMES ...
HIS MIDDLE SCHOOL, TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, WAS JUST A BUNCH OF AMATEURS ...

ONE PINCH AFTER ANOTHER ... IF IT HAD BEEN AN AVERAGE PITCHER, HE WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP LONG BEFORE ...
THE CATCHER'S PASSED BALLS ...
ERRORS AT CRITICAL MOMENTS ...
わっ
EVEN SO, HE WASN'T BOTHERED BY HIS TEAM'S ERRORS
HE WAS THE PITCHER CARRYING HIS TEAM WITH RELENTLESS PITCHING ...
ON HIS BACK ...

I FEEL LIKE I SAW A TRUE ACE.

I HAVE TO ABSO-LUTELY GIVE MY BEST...
WHEN ALL OF THEM ARE LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT...

Our hero, Ei!
Don't lose!
Sawamura the ace
Akaei Middle!
Good luck, Ei!
WE'RE CHEERING FOR YOU ALWAYS
GO FOR KOSHIEN!
Akaei's Ace

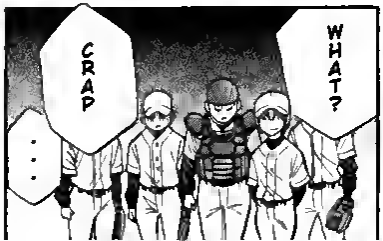
ぐっ

GUYS!!
LET'S GO,

FROM THIS INNING, THE PITCHER IS YOU
HURRY UP AND GO TO THE MOUND !!!
ACE OF DIAMONDS
I WON'T FORGIVE HALF-HEARTED PITCHING!
FOR ALL THE BOASTING YOU DID
YOU
WHAT'S YOUR PITCH?
HEH
DON'T WORRY

CHAPTER 15/STRIKE BACK
ALL BALLS WILL GO STRAIGHT TO THE CENTER!
I WON'T RUN OR HIDE
ダイヤのA
エース

だぢ〜はっはっ!

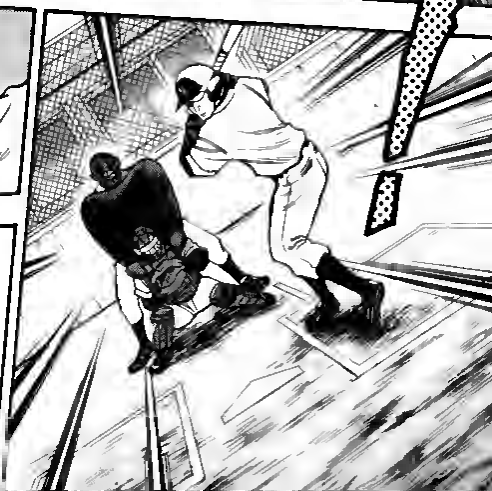

WHAT?
CRAP
...

SO THE REST IS UP TO YOU GUYS!!
I'LL LET THEM HIT LIKE CRAZY,

HE HE
PLAY!
HE'S CRAZY ...
IF THIS ISN'T A BLUFF
!
DISCUSSING WITH SUCH A LOUD VOICE
HMPH, HE'S GONNA THROW IT STRAIGHT OVER THE CENTER ISN'T HE

!

IT'S
...
RIGHT
...



DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!
!
IT FLEW
A HOME RUN FROM THE START
OF COURSE !!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT SPEED WILL WORK AGAINST A 3RD YEAR STUDENT

NICE LEFT !!
YES!
I WAS TOO SERIOUS ...
DAMN
BUT AT THIS RATE, IT'LL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY ARE STRUCK OUT
IT'S THE PERFECT SPEED TO HIT FOR A 3RD YEAR ...
HAHA, THEY WERE PROTECTED BY THE FIELD THIS TIME
THANK GOD I WAS PROTECTING DEEP

A STRAIGHT FAST PITCH HUH?
CHUCKLES
IF YOU DON'T REALIZE HIS PITCHING STYLE,
YOU'RE GONNA END UP SUFFERING

THAT PITCHER'S LUCKY!
HAHA ... NICE SIDE
DID IT GO INTO THE GLOVE ?!
ALL BALLS HEADED TOWARDS THE FIELDERS ...
LUCK WON'T CONTINUE FOR THREE TIMES STRAIGHT !!!
GET REAL!
WOOO! JUST 2 BALLS BUT 2 OUTS ALREADY!
2 OUTS! 2 OUTS!

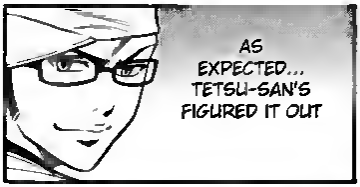
BAM!
WH...AT
SHORT!

DAMN ... I WAS DECEIVED
ABOUT THE START BY THE SWINGS SPEED
ボテッ
ボテッ
!
W... WHY IS A SECOND BASEMAN THERE--!!!

OUT!!

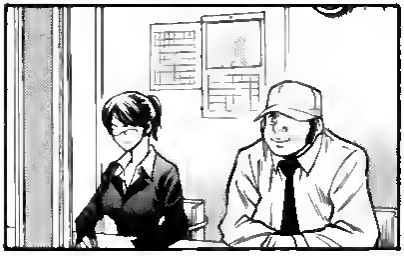
おおおおおお
WOOOOOO!!
AWESOME!
NOW JUST BRING IT ON !!!
WE WERE ABLE TO SUPPRESS THE THIRD YEAR STUDENTS AT NO POINTS?!
SERIO-USLY?!
NICE CATCH!
っし!
NICE CATCH!
NICE CATCH!
THAT SECOND BASEMAN'S PRETTY GOOD
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO MISS THAT KIND OF A BALL

I THOUGHT I'GOT IT...
I KNOW I DIDN'T MISS THE BALL...
THERE'S NO POINT GETTING THE 1ST YEARS HAPPY
S
SORRY
.....
WHAT THE HELL WAS GOING ON WITH HIS BALLS...


AS EXPECTED... TETSU-SAN'S FIGURED IT OUT

THAT'S GONNA BE A BIT TROUBLE-SOME
A MOVING BALL THAT CHANGES RIGHT BEFORE THE HITTER HUH?

A MOVING BALL THAT CHANGES...
RIGHT BEFORE IT GETS TO THE BATTER, EH?



WHAT?

HAHA, THE FIRST YEARS HAVE A LOT OF ENERGY...
FIRST OF ALL, LETS GET ON THE BASE!
THE MATCH ISN'T OVER YET!
HEY YOU! LIKE I SAID, DON'T TAKE CONTROL !!
THE WHOLE TEAM GETS EXCITED
IF A NICE PLAY IS DONE ON THE FIELD
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE A DIFFERENT TEAM THAN FROM THE EARLIER INNINGS
UNDOUBTEDLY SAWAMURA
AND THE PERSON WHO CREATED THIS TEAM'S MOOD IS
HAHA

DAMN... WHAT... IS HE EXPECTING OF US...
HE'S A MONSTER...
S... SORRY... FURUYA
I CAN'T STOP YOUR BALLS...
THE UPPER-CLASSMAN SAID THEY DON'T WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL WITH YOU
SORRY

SORRY...
DAMN!
SO CLOSE!
OUT!!
LETS GET ONE MORE POINT!
WE'RE BEGINNING TO BE ABLE TO HIT THE BALL!
IT'S NOT LIKE ITS NOT WORKING AT ALL

HM

THUMP

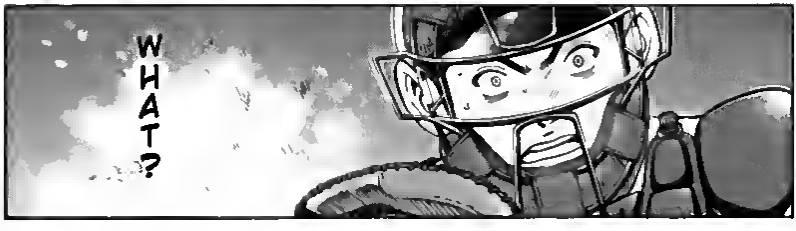
WEIRD, RIGHT?
THIS GUY HAD AN ERROR YESTERDAY, AND FORRADE TALKING HIMSELF!

MASUKO-SEMPAI...
BECAUSE OF JUST ONE ERROR, HE WAS KICKED OUT FROM HIS REGULAR'S POSITION...
3 HITS AND 5 RBI! HE'S GETTING FIRED UP TO ADVANCE BACK INTO THE REGULARS POSITION
AT HIS BEST
WHAT'S MASUKO-SAN'S BATTING AVERAGE UP UNTIL NOW?
HYAHAHA, THAT'S GREAT! A BATTLE BETWEEN ROOM-MATES!
SAWAMURA-CHAN...
I'M GUESSING THAT THAT GUY HAS REALIZED SAWAMURA'S PITCHING STYLE ...
WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE SAWAMURA'S TRUE SKILLS WITH THIS MATCH-UP!

I'LL DEFINITELY GET INTO THE REGULARS POSITION!
COME AT ME WITH YOUR BEST!
Y....
YES!

HE'S THE ONE WHO WAS HITTING INSANELY TODAY, RIGHT?
HE'S SO BIG...
WE WERE ABLE TO GET THROUGH BECAUSE OF LUCK LAST INNING...
BUT THE OFFENSE STYLE WE'VE BEEN USING UP TIL NOW WON'T WORK ANYMORE!
WHAT? WAIT, WAIT!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO THROW STRAIGHT TO THIS GUY TOO?!

WAHAHAHAHA!
THERE'S ONLY A HEAD-ON GAME!
WAAAAA!
WE'RE DEAD!!


WHAT?

THE CATCHER MISSED
A STRAIGHT HEAD-ON BALL?
WHAT?
...

NO... I CAN'T TELL FROM THE SIDE
MAYBE A SIGN DIFFERENCE?
DID THE BALL CURVE?
IT SEEMED LIKE IT MOVED WHEN IT GOT TO MY BAT.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THE BALL JUST NOW?
SORRY ...
. . .
HM ...
. . .

WHAT?!
HE'S HOLDING THE BAT SHORT, AND MOVED TO THE FRONT OF THE BATTER BOX ...?!
IT WAS A BALL SO FAST THE HE HAS TO SHORTEN HIS GRIP?!
HAHA
AS I THOUGHT, MASUKO-SEMPAI'S REALIZED THE CHARACTERISTICS OF SAWAMURA'S BALL...

SHORTENING THE SWING,
AND HITTING THE BALL BEFORE IT MOVES... THAT'S HIS PLAN HUH!...
HEHE...
I LOVE IT !!
THIS FEELING OF TENSION...

ぶっ

FOUL
WAAAA! WHAT A HIT
JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM AN EX-NUMBER 5
IS HE PLANNING TO BREAK THE NET, THAT GUY
HA HA HA
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE'S HOLDING THE BAT SHORT!

ばぁ～
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO SAWAMURA?
HE'S DIFFERENT FROM AZUMA-SAN WHO CAME TO BAT UNDERESTIMATING YOU
…
THREE WEEKS AFTER THAT ERROR...
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I COULD BE THIS DUMB.

I'M SORRY.
WHAT WAS THAT PLAY?!
YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT YOUR NEXT AT BAT NOT THE BALL, WEREN'T YOU!!
今
5
THERE'S ALWAYS ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE BATTING BOX...
BUT OUT IN THE FIELD, ALL NINE OF YOU HAVE TO PROTECT IT!
S
DON'T TROUBLE THE TEAM JUST BECAUSE OF SOME BORING INDIVIDUAL EMOTIONS!
GO COOL YOUR HEAD IN THE SECOND TEAM!
I WON'T REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN...
ぐっ
I WON'T...

I'LL CHALLENGE YOU WITH MY BEST EVERY SECOND I'M UP HERE IN THE BATTING BOX!!
ドクン
ドクン
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WE HAVE THE UPPERHAND IN THE COUNT...
PITCH AWAY ONE BALL ACCORDING TO THEORY AND...
WA, WAIT!

IF I RUN AWAY HERE
I CAN'T BECOME AN ACE
!
AH!!! I DON'T CARE ANY MORE
JUST GET DEFEATED BY YOURSELF!!
ドゥン
S
ドクン

ドクン
ドクン
REMEMBER... THAT FEELING AT THAT TIME...
REMEMBER
THE FEELING OF THE MITT AT THAT TIME...
ドクン
OO!!
OOOOOO!!
ドクン

GOOOOOOO!!
ニヒヒヒヒ

バ
ン
IT WENT IN!!!
W...WOH
DIDN'T HE... GET STUCK JUST NOW?
HE FORCED IT STRAIGHT ...
WITH HIS POWER!!
OF COURSE HE DID!!

DON'T THINK THE SAME BALL WILL WORK ALL THE TIME!
BE PREPARED! WE'LL BRING YOU DOWN FROM THE MOUND!!
IF THE BALL HAD BEEN OFF BY A LITTLE BIT...
THE ONE WHO WOULD HAVE LOST WAS ME...
IT WAS A GOOD BALL, FULL OF SPIRIT
SAWAMURA-CHAN ....
HA... HE WAS COMPLETELY OUT FORCED
WITH THAT, THE BLOW ON THE PITCHER'S GONNA BE BIG TOO

HE WAS... ABLE TO HIT DEAD-ON...?
I PUT EVERYTHING INTO IT...
BUT IT WAS MY BEST PITCH...
IS WHAT THE TOP CLASS HIGH SCHOOL BASE-BALL IS LIKE...
THIS...
THIS IS THE MATCH BETWEEN POWER AND POWER...?

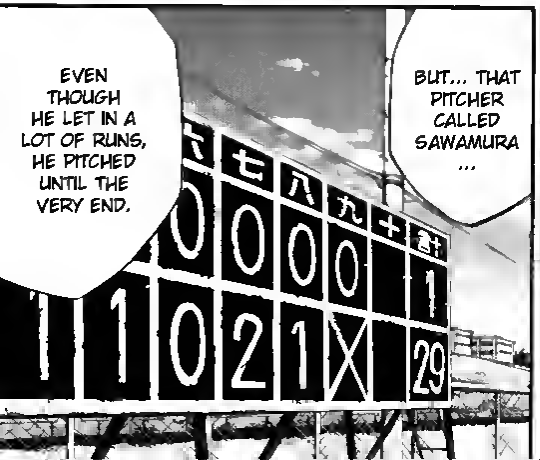
AWESOME.
HAHA...

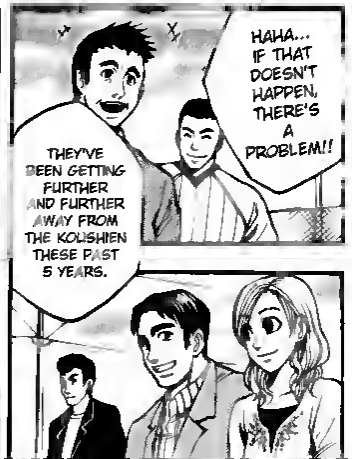
HE'S LAUGHING.
THAT KID...
WOOO!!
LET'S GO GET THEM!!
MORE! MORE!
I WANT TO THROW MORE!

んばっ
WAHAHAHA! A STRAIGHT -ON GAME OF COURSE!
I KNEW IT!!
THAT GUY...
HE'S NOT EFFEC-TED AT ALL!
THAT ME NS...
EVEN AFTER BEING HIT, HE STILL HAS BRIGHT EYES...
…HMPH
HE'S LIKE A KID WHO HAS JUST LEARNED BASEBALL.

ACE OF DIAMONDS
SEIDOU'S LINEUP WAS AMAZING LIKE I EXPECTED!!
EVEN THOUGH THE THIRD-YEARS FLATTENED THE FIRST-YEARS IN THE END.

HE MAY JUST BECOME THE SAVIOR OF SEIDOU, SINCE THEY HAVE SUCH A WEAKNESS IN PITCHING!
EVEN THOUGH HE ONLY THREW ONE PITCH, HE CAUSED QUITE A BIT OF IMPACT!
BUT... THAT KID CALLED FURUYA IS GOOD, ISN'T HE!!


EVEN THOUGH HE LET IN A LOT OF RUNS, HE PITCHED UNTIL THE VERY END.
BUT... THAT PITCHER CALLED SAWAMURA ...
1 0 0 0 1
1 1 0 2 1 X 29


HAHA... IF THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN, THERE'S A PROBLEM!!
THEY'VE BEEN GETTING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM THE KOUSHIEN THESE PAST 5 YEARS.

ダイヤのA エース

I DON'T HATE THOSE KIND OF PITCHERS ...

CHAPTER 17 - 2 MONTHS UNTIL SUMMER

THAT NEVER GIVE UP.

THEN, TOMORROW'S GAME ...
WHAT?! REALLY?
YEP! I'M BACK ON THE STARTING LINEUP!!
AS HE IS NOW, HE'S STILL NOT AT THE LEVEL OF THE FIRST-STRING PLAYERS.
SAWAMURA PITCHED REALLY HARD, BUT...
HAHAHAHAHA! THAT HOME RUN DECIDED IT AFTER ALL?
WELL, IT WAS A TIGHT CONTEST.
HAHAHA!
WONDER IF HE'S HIDING BACK IN OUR ROOM CRYING...?
"GACHA"

AH
THE NEXT NEWS ITEM IS
WELCOME BACK!
THE FRONT OF ARMAMENT
WHAT, ... HE'S COMPLETELY FINE.
....
WATCHING TV LIKE YOU'RE TOTALLY FINE...
GET ALL DEPRESSED LIKE ANY NEWBIE WOULD BE, DAMN IT!
YOU ASS! YOU WERE OMPLETELY WIPED BY YOUR SENIORS!
M... MY PUDDING ...
OHHHH

WAI... THAT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT FROM MY FRIENDS BACK HO...
"DASHI"
WHAT THE HELL, YOU ... YOU EVEN DARED TO BRING YOUR PHONE HERE!
I WONDER WHO TEXTED YOU?!
AH, THE HIGH-LOWS ?!
"CHARARA~RA~"
チャラララ〜ラ
"CHARARA~RA~"
チャラララ〜ラ

TRANSLATOR NOTE: A JAPANESE PUNK ROCK BAND

GO, EIJUN!!
-WAKANA!
...
GIVE IT BACK...
TL NOTE:SCORPION HOLD IS ALSO KNOWN AS SHARPSHOOTER
サソリ固め〜
SCORPION HOLD
WHO IS THIS WAKANA?!
NURSH
DAMN YOU... DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND BACK HOME?!
REMEMBER, YOU GOT TROUNCED BY MASUKO SEMPAI!
YOUR SKILLS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO HOLD YOU AGAINST THE FIRST-STRINGERS!!
ASS! DON'T GET COCKY JUST BECAUSE YOU GOT ON THE MOUND FOR A WHILE!
SHE'S JUST A CHILDHOOD FRIEND...
Y... YOU'RE WRONG!
GUH

I...
I'M THE ONE WHO IS THE MOST AWARE OF THAT!
HUUUUH?!
MY BODY ACHES ALL OVER EVEN THOUGH I ONLY PITCHED 4 INNINGS.
FRANKLY SPEAKING ... I WAS CRUSHED BY THE SENIORS' PRESSURE.
BUT TODAY, WHEN I GOT ON THE MOUND
IT HIT ME.
THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER PLACE TO ENJOY BASEBALL FROM THAT DISTANCE OTHER THAN THE MOUND.

THAT'S WHY I WILL NEVER GIVE THE MOUND UP TO ANYONE ELSE ...
TFOA

HEHE. THE NEXT TIME I GET ON THE MOUND
I WON'T LET ANYONE MAKE A HIT!

URRRGGGH ... MY PUDDING ...
オラァ
ORAA
SHUT YOUR TRAP! WE'RE NOT HAVING THIS CONVERSATION RIGHT NOW!!
SHOW US PHOTOS OF WAKANA-CHAN. PHOTOS!!
BAN
BAN
BAN
STOP!
YEAH!
LET'S DO HIM IN, MASUKO-SAN!
HIS JOINTS ARE PRETTY WEAK!
HAHA... BEING A FETCHING BOY FOR YOUR SENIORS?
EAT
GAKON

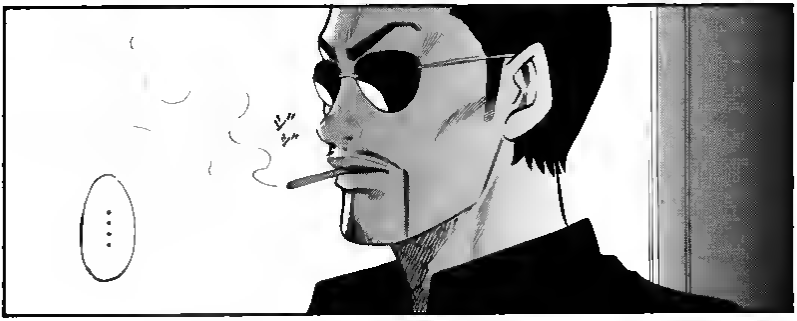
2 HITS AND A FINE PLAY.
YOU STOOD OUT WELL, HARUICHI.
SMILE
SMILE
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO ENTER THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL.
YOU ALWAYS FOLLOWED ME IN EVERYTHING IN THE PAST, THOUGH...
AH... NO, THAT WAS A FLUKIE.
BUT... IF YOU ALWAYS TRY TO BECOME MY COPY,
YOU'LL NEVER SURPASS THE ORIGINAL.

THIS ISN'T AS SOFT OF A PLACE AS YOU THINK.
NICE
BROTHER...
PI
GASA
THAT GUY... AND HE ASKED ME TO WATCH THE VIDEO OF THE INAJITSU GAME WITH HIM AFTERWARDS, TOO.
DUNNO... BUT HE WAS HERE DURING DINNER.
LAST
HM? WHERE'S MIYUKI?
WONDER WHERE HE WENT?

SHEESH
TELLING ME TO CATCH YOUR BALLS RIGHT NOW ...
整理整頓
用具は我らの
体の一部
今日学べ
YOU'RE ALREADY PART OF THE FIRST STRING, AREN'T YOU?
WE'LL GET TO PRACTICE A LOT AFTER ALL.
SMIRK
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU FELT SOMETHING AFTER SEEING SAWAMURA PITCH?

MONSTER-KUN
♡
……
ぐっ
I... CHOSE THIS PLACE
BECAUSE I WANTED TO CHOOSE WHERE I WOULD END UP.

PLEASE DON'T DISAPPOINT ME.
SU
MIYUKI-SEMPAI
HA HA HA, YOU'RE INTERESTING!
I LIKE YOU!


…

HOW DO YOU THINK TODAY'S GAME WAS?

COACH KATAOKA …
PACHI
SO YOU WERE HERE!

WELL, EVEN THOUGH THE SCORES SHOW AN OVERWHELMING LOSS,
BUT WASN'T THERE A GOOD RESULT IN THE END?
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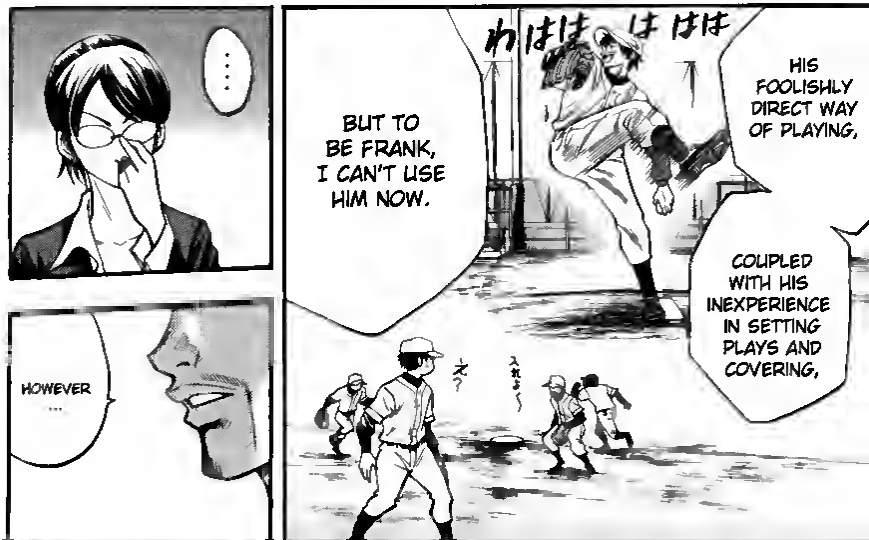
AND FURUYA MATORU, WHO SILENCED THE CROWD WITH ONLY ONE PITCH...
THAT SMALL ONE UP SECOND... HE'S THIRD-YEAR KOMINATO'S LITTLE BROTHER, ISN'T HE.
NO WONDER THEIR PLAYS WERE SO ALIKE.
I PLAN TO LET HIM DEBUT IN THE KANTOU TOURNAMENT.
IF WE WIN TOMORROW'S GAME,
EVEN IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY, THERE WON'T BE MANY PEOPLE WHO CAN HIT THAT.
THAT HIGH FAST BALL WITH THE ABILITY TO RISE AND DECEIVE...
WHAT?! YOU'LL LET FURUYA?
THAT'S RIGHT... THE COACH DID EXPERIENCE THAT BALL'S POWER FIRSTHAND.
THAT'S WHY I PLAN TO USE TANPA AND FURUYA AS THE FIGUREHEADS OF THE TEAM IN THE MATCHES BEFORE SUMMER.

WILL YOU USE SAWAMURA-KUN?
SAWAMURA?!
DIDN'T THAT BOY LET MASUKO HIT A HOME?
EVEN THOUGH THE BALL FELL IN THE MIDDLE OF TWO FIELDERS AND WASN'T PASSED WELL,
CAUSING HIM TO LET THROUGH 4 POINTS IN THE END,
AH
IN THE END, THE ONLY BALL THAT WAS HIT THAT FAR WAS MASUKO-KUN'S.
STRONG HITTERS AND WEAK PITCHERS.

RIGHT NOW, WITH WEIGHT TRAINING AND CIRCUIT TRAINING FOR THE POWER BASEBALL OF TODAY'S HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL,
BALLS FROM THE LEFT ARE SPECIAL.

HMPH
W... WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT WE DON'T HAVE A LEFT-HANDED PITCHER, BUT...

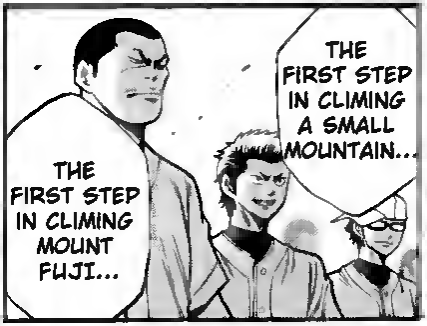

...
BUT TO BE FRANK, I CAN'T USE HIM NOW.
わはは はは
HIS FOOLISHLY DIRECT WAY OF PLAYING,
COUPLED WITH HIS INEXPERIENCE IN SETTING PLAYS AND COVERING,
HOWEVER ...

I DARE SAY THAT NO ONE TAUGHT HIM SUCH A DARING PITCHING FORM.
ALSO, HIS FLEXIBLE JOINTS ALLOW HIM TO PITCH SO THAT THE BALL'S DESTINATION CAN ONLY BESEEN AT THE END.
WHEN COMPARING NATURAL TALENT... HE MIGHT OUTDO THE OTHER TWO.

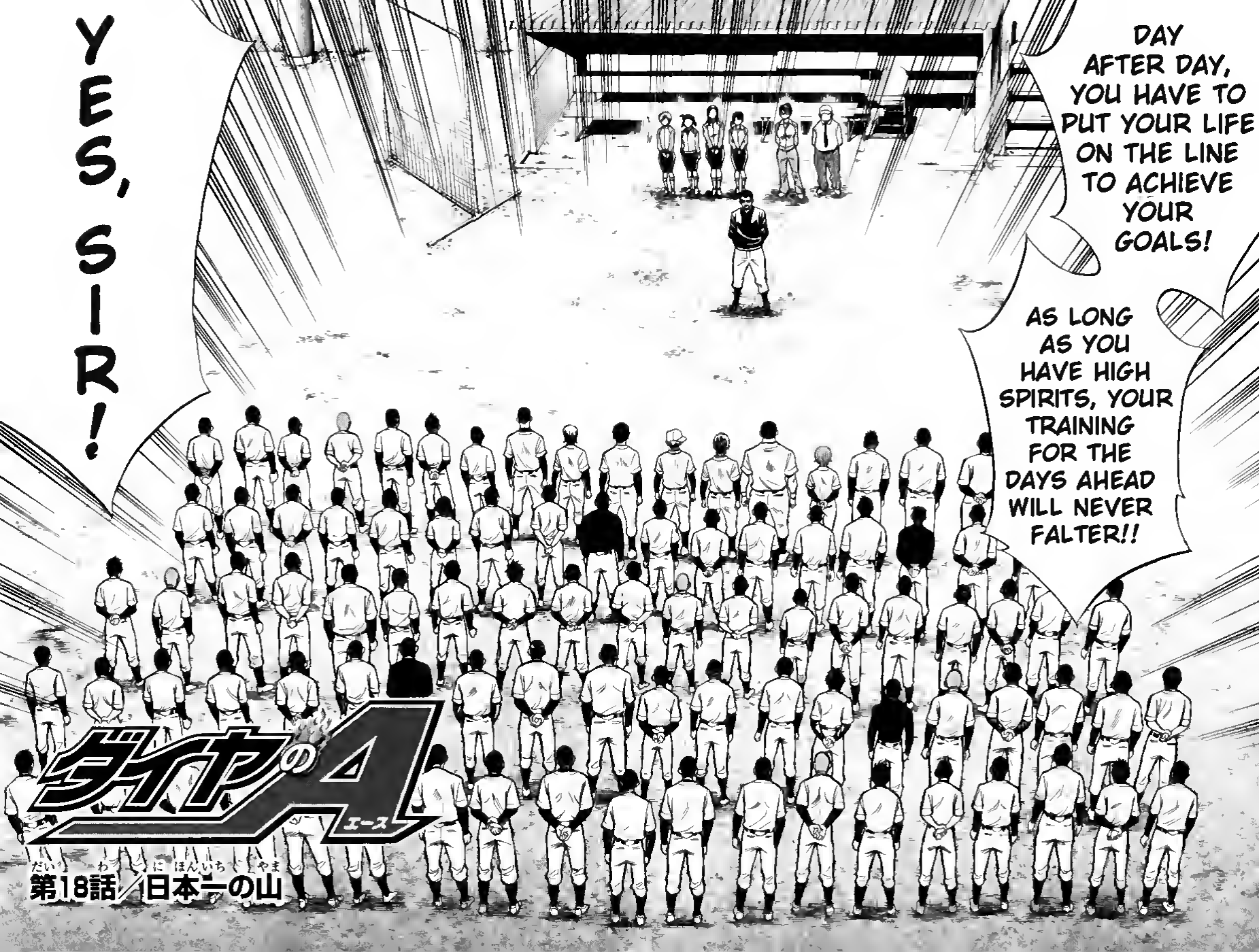
ONLY 2 MONTHS OR SO TILL KOUSHIEN IN THE SUMMER.
YES ...
WHA
AT ANY RATE, FURUYA WILL BE IN THE FIRST STRING ...
AND SAWAMURA WILL GAIN EXPERIENCE IN THE SECOND STRING.
WHO WILL BE THE ONE TO STAND ON THE MOUND IN THE END?

LISTEN UP! THERE'S STILL TWO MONTHS UNTIL THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT
WE CAN'T BE TRAINING AIMLESSLY THESE COMING DAYS

SO... WHICH MOUNTAIN SHOULD WE BE CLIMBING?


THE FIRST STEP IN CLIMING A SMALL MOUNTAIN...
THE FIRST STEP IN CLIMING MOUNT FUJI...

THEY MAY BE THE SAME FIRST STEP, BUT THE RESOLUTION NEEDED FOR EACH ONE IS DIFFERENT.


YES, SIR!
DAY AFTER DAY, YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS!
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE HIGH SPIRITS, YOUR TRAINING FOR THE DAYS AHEAD WILL NEVER FALTER!!
ダイヤのA
エース
第18話／日本一の山
だいじゅうはちわ　にほんいちのやま

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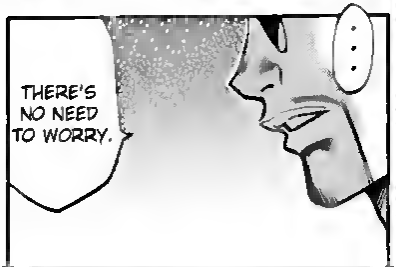
お
WITH ALL THE NEW FIRST YEARS, WE NOW HAVE A TOTAL OF 93 MEMBERS...
ALL THE MEMBERS LOOK SO INTENSE AS THEY ARE PRACTICING, DON'T THEY?

SO HOW'S IT LOOK, COACH KATAOKA?
DO YOU THINK YOU WILL REACH KOSHIEN THIS YEAR?

MY, MY... BUT IN THESE 5 YEARS, KOSHIEN HAS ALWAYS BEEN TOO FAR A GOAL TO REACH.
I JUST DON'T THINK OUR TEAM WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE SUCH AN UPROAR AT THE NATIONALS

OUR GOAL HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE SAME: TO CONQUER THE NATION!!


...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.

THE ABILITIES OF THE ATHELETES HERE FAR EXCEED THOSE OF LAST YEAR'S FOUR BEST TEAMS
HEY!

スパーン
HYAAAAAAAAA!
OUR IRON WALL DEFENSE IS SOMETHING TO BOAST ABOUT
WHOAA~
FIRST OFF, SHORTSTOP KURAMOCHI (2ND YEAR)
NEXT UP, SECOND BASEMAN, KOMINATO (3RD YEAR)

UOGHHHHH
DIE YOU!!!
THIRD, THERE'S THE STRONG THROWING ARM OF
CENTER FIELD, ISASHIKI (3RD YEAR)

THE STEADFAST PLAYER FIXATED ON WINNING, NO.4
THE FIRST-STRING CAPTAIN YUUKI (3RD YEAR)
HMM... IS THE WIND COMING FROM THE EAST OR THE WEST?
WHY THE WIND?
THE ONE WHO HIT THE BALL OVER THE FENCE,
A RETURNED REGULAR,
THE SUPER HEAVYWEIGHT THIRD BASEMAN, NO. 5 MASUKO (3RD YEAR)

LASTLY, THE ONE WHO BECAME THE PIVOTAL PART OF THE TEAM,
NO. 6 CATCHER, MIYUKI KAZUYA (2ND YEAR)
HA HA HA HA, THIS IS AMUSING!
THERE ARE NO FIXED MEMBERS FOR THE LEFT AND RIGHT FIELD
THESE ARE THE PLAYERS THAT WILL BE KNOWN AND FEARED THROUGHOUT THE NATION
HMM HMMM
THE ONLY THING TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE PITCHER

THE FORMER ACE PITCHER, TANABA -KUN
IS STILL NOWHERE NEAR REGAINING HIS SHARPNESS

NOW, THERE ARE VARIOUS PITCHERS THAT CAN BE USED IN DIFFERENT WAYS.
WELL... NOT EXACTLY...
WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT HIM?
HE'S THE PITCHER THAT YOU BROUGHT HERE YOURSELF
...

IN FACT, THERE ARE PEOPLE ALL OVER THE PLACE WHO DOUBT YOUR COACHING ABILITIES
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE OF THIS OPINION
EVEN THOUGH WE ARE A SCHOOL WITH A LONG BASEBALL TRADITION, THERE ARE PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL NAGGING US
HA HA HA, DON'T PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO IT.
...
BESIDES, YOU TURNED DOWN THE INVITATION TO GO PRO IN ORDER TO RETURN TO YOUR FORMER SCHOOL AS A COACH. WE APPRECIATE THE SACRIFICE YOU MADE FOR US
YOU'RE JUST A STEP AWAY FROM LEADING THE SCHOOL TO NATIONAL DOMINATION.
I JUST WANTED TO RETURN THE FAVOR TO MY ALMA MATER...

THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE ON THE FIELD, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM TALKING ABOUT IRRELEVANT MATTERS.
THAT IS WHY WHATEVER RESPONSIBLITIES I HAVE, I WILL SEE THEM TO THE END.
EH...
SCARY
I WILL NOW TAKE MY LEAVE.
B SIDE
DOES THAT PERSON UNDERSTAND ANYTHING AT ALL...?
IF THERE AREN'T GOOD RESULTS THIS YEAR, HE WILL BE FIRED.

WHY ARE WE, FIRST YEARS, IN THE MIDDLE OF SAKKITTO DOING BASIC DRILLS AND RUNNING?
"FIELD A" IS FOR THE REGULAR'S BATTING PRACTICE
"FIELD B" IS FOR COMPLETE DEFENSE PRACTICE
FURUYA'S BEEN PROMOTED TO THE FIRST STRING, AND WE'RE RUNNING WITH HIM AS OUR STANDARD
SURELY THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIM AND US IN TERMS OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH.
AND HE HAS HIS IMPRESSIVE FASTBALL..
WHAT... YOU'RE NOT TOO HAPPY TO BE DEMOTED TO THE SECOND STRING?
BY THE WAY, I'VE ALSO BEEN DEMOTED TO THE SECOND STRING AS WELL
OF COURSE I'M NOT HAPPY.
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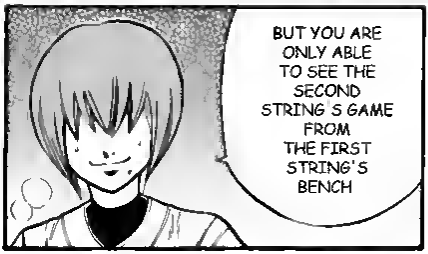
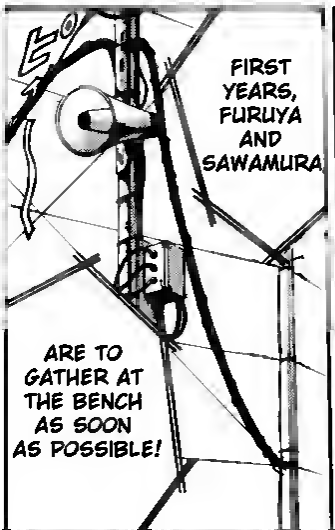
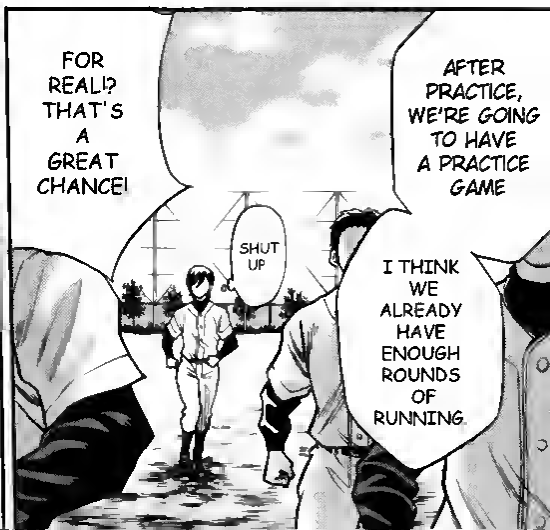
ザッ
THERE IT IS! A SPEECH! AS EXPECTED FROM THE BIG SHOT!
AS IF I'D GIVE IN TO THE SECOND STRINGS, FROM NOW ON I'M NOT ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THEM!!
I'M GONNA THROW FROM THE FIRST STRING'S MOUND!

WHAT? A GAME?


BUT YOU ARE ONLY ABLE TO SEE THE SECOND STRING'S GAME FROM THE FIRST STRING'S BENCH


FIRST YEARS, FURUYA AND SAWAMURA
ARE TO GATHER AT THE BENCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!


FOR REAL!? THAT'S A GREAT CHANCE!
AFTER PRACTICE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A PRACTICE GAME
SHUT UP
I THINK WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH ROUNDS OF RUNNING

WHAT IS IT?
...
WHA-WHA-WHA
FROM NOW ON, YOU TWO WILL BE GETTING A PITCHER'S PRACTICE MENU.
THE AMOUNT OF PRACTICE YOU WILL BE GETTING WILL BE TWICE AS MUCH AS EVERYONE ELSE. GOOD LUCK.
FURUYA KUN

SINCE YOU MIGHT BE A STARTER FOR THE KANTOU TOURNAMENT NEXT WEEK,
YES, MA'AM
YOU WILL HAVE TO CONFIRM THE SIGNS WITH MIYUKI-KUN

MY...
WE JUST HAVE TO INCREASE HIS STAMINA BY MAKING HIM THROW 100 BALLS EVERYDAY
REI-CHAN, THAT GUY ALREADY HAS PERFECT CONTROL IN HIS PITCHES

I WILL FOLLOW MIYUKI-SENPAI'S DIRECTIONS

FURUYA -KUN, DO YOU ACCEPT THIS PROPOSAL?

...!!
!

I HAVEN'T HEARD IT IN A WHILE...
THE SOUND OF MY PITCH IN A CATCHER'S MITT

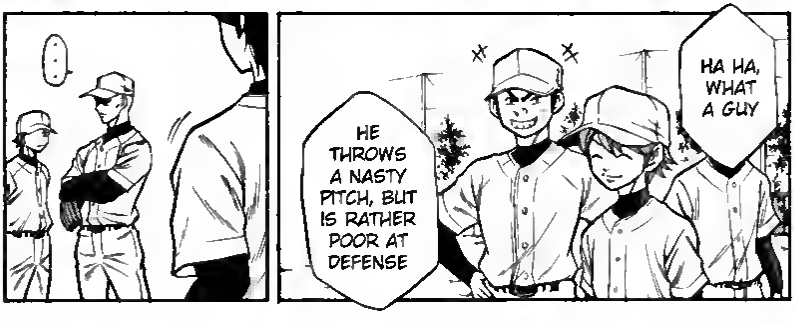
WHAT'S WRONG?
IS THAT THE BEST PITCH YOU'VE GOT?
ドカン
…
THERE'S NO NEED TO HOLD YOURSELF BACK.
…
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME.
IT WASN'T A MISTAKE TO CHOOSE THIS SCHOOL

BEFORE ONE KNOWS
THESE GUYS ARE...!
HA HA HA, THIS BRAT...
IS IT OKAY TO BE LIKE THAT THE FIRST TIME?!
WHAT THE... YOU'RE SO OBEDIENT JUST NOW
FACE READING AND PREPARING FOR THE MOUND IS WHAT HE'S GOING TO TEACH YOU.
...
SAWAMURA-KUN IS WITH THE THIRD YEAR, CHRIS-KUN.
!
WHY...
. . .
HOLD ON! THAT'S UNFAIR!
I ALSO WANT MIYUKI-SENPAI!

I ALSO PREFER TO BE WITH THE OTHER PITCHER THAN YOU.
I HOPE WE GET ALONG.
HUH!?
NICE TO MEET YOU.
CLUMSY PITCHER.

FIRST BASE!
HEY
...
Roll
Roll
THE
Ace of Diamond

WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING!
DON'T MIND. DON'T MIND.
ダイヤのA
エース
Chapter 19 / Our three years


HE THROWS A NASTY PITCH, BUT IS RATHER POOR AT DEFENSE
HA HA, WHAT A GUY

YOU'RE TOO FOCUSED ON STEPPING ON FIRST BASE.
IF YOU'RE NOT COVERING PARALLEL TO THE LINE, YOUR LEGS WILL BE CUT BY THE RUNNER.
ONCE THE BALL HAS BEEN PITCHED, YOU ARE AN ADDITIONAL INFIELDER.
DO NOT FORGET THIS!
YES!
HOW DIGNIFIED OF TANBA-SAN...
TANBA-SAN ACTUALLY GAVE ADVICE TO HIS RIVAL
WELL, TANBA-SAN DEFINITELY HAS MORE MATCH EXPERIENCE THAN HIM.
ぐぃ～
...
...

...
SAY...
YOU WANT TO BE THERE WITH THEM SOON, DON'T YOU?
YOUR FACE SAYS YOU ENVY HIM.
Takigawa Chris Yuu (Third year)
HEY IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE GOT INTO THE BULL PEN! LET ME PITCH SOME BALLS!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA WASTE ON STRETCHING?!
IT'S BEEN 30 MINUTES !!
HIS VOICE IS SO SOFT AND I AM BARELY ABLE TO HEAR HIM.
UGH... WHAT'S THE HECK WITH THIS GUY?
WHAT ARE YOU TAKING NOTES FOR...?!
This guy.
scribble
scribble
...

HUH? WHAT YA SAY JUST NOW?
YOU'VE GOT FLEXIBLE JOINTS ON WRISTS, SHOULDERS AND ELBOWS.
AND LONG FINGERS ARE ALSO GOOD CHARACTER-ISTICS OF A GOOD PITCHER.
HOW-EVER...
CHRIS-KUN'S DATA BOOK
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BE THE ACE IN THE FUTURE.
WHAT!?
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE CATCHER'S SIGNS AND GO AHEAD WITH YOUR OWN PITCHES?
DURING THE PREVIOUS MATCH ...

DO YOU TAKE US CATCHERS AS YOUR PITCHING TARGET?
N-NO IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.
HONESTLY, I DON'T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MY CONTROL.
THAT IS WHY I MIGHT AS WELL JUST PITCH A STRAIGHT BALL WITH ALL THAT I GOT.
BESIDES IF I PITCH A STRAIGHT BALL, WOULDN'T IT BECOME A BATTLE OF STRENGTH WITH THE BATTER? ISN'T THAT THE REASON WHY BASEBALL EXCITES YOU?
THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU GREEN-HORN.

TL NOTE: GREENHORN = INEXPERIENCED

FORGET ABOUT IT, JUST PITCH SOME BALLS TO ME.
ALTHOUGH, I WON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM YOU.
THEN WHY IS HE FULLY EQUIPPING HIMSELF JUST TO RECEIVE MY PITCH?
HE DOESN'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM ME AND CALLS ME A GREENHORN.
しぎ
スッ
RAHHH
DON'T TELL ME... HE IS AFRAID OF MY PITCHES?

HEY ?!
WHAT'S WRONG ?
WHAT HAPPENED?! T-THIS PERSON, JUST NOW... HIS MITT DIDN'T MOVE AT ALL.

I'M OVER HERE.
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...? SO SCARY.....
NO WAY.....
A PITCHER HAS TO CARRY THE BURDEN OF THE WHOLE TEAM WHEN HE STAND ON THE MOUND, IT'S INEVITABLE.
DO YOU PLAY JUST TO SATISFY YOURSELF?
OVER-POWERING THE OPPONENT ?!
BASE-BALL'S EXCITE-MENT?!

YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ...
WHAT WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH THESE LAST THREE YEARS.
WHA...

DAMM-IT~~~
WHAT THE HELL ~~~
FROM THE START, HE DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO CATCH MY PITCHES!
WHAT IS WITH THAT GUY? HE EVEN WENT BACK FIRST.
WHAT'S WITH HIM? WHY DID HE START RUNNING AGAIN?
I THINK HE IS JUST MAKING A FUSS BECAUSE HE KNOWS HE CAN'T BE A REGULAR!
WHY IS HE SPOUTING NONSENSE WHEN WE ARE BOTH SECOND STRINGERS?
DOES HE EVEN UNDERSTAND MY TRUE STRENGTH AFTER WATCHING ME PITCH TWO TO THREE TIMES?

You too?
I'M... NOT QUITE GOOD WITH SENPAI EITHER.
He's so dark.
ぬりゃあああああ
DID HE FALL OUT WITH CHRIS-SENPAI ALREADY?
IT KINDA SUCKS TO BE PAIRED UP WITH CHRIS-SENPAI.
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PITCHERS HAVE QUIT BECAUSE OF HIM?
EVER SINCE HIS REGULAR SPOT WAS TAKEN OVER BY MIYUKI, HE HAS BEEN BEHAVING STRANGELY.
THAT RUMOUR SHOULD BE REAL THEN?
HAHA... I PITIED SAWAMURA THAT...
HE GOT PAIRED TOGETHER WITH SEMPAI!
BESIDES... IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE IF I KEEP DOING THE SAME TRAINING...
HUFF
DAMN IT.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
AH, SAWA MURA-KUN.
HUH?
JUST NOW, CHRIS-SENPAI ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS.
HERE YOU GO!
HAH
HAH
A DAILY PRACTICE MENU YOU HAVE TO FINISH.

WHOA
JAPAN'S MENU
HILL ROAD DASH
SCISSORS JUMP
PUSH PRESS
MB SHOOT
HA HA HA ...
IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, THERE MAY BE MANY THINGS TO DO, BUT YOU ONLY HAVE TO DO A SMALL NUMBER OF EACH.
HEEY~~~ A PITCHER SHOULDN'T BE EMOT-IONAL~~~
STOP BULLSHITTING ME~~~ THAT BASTARD~~~ I'LL KILL YOU~~~
FOR A PERSON WHO LEAVES FIRST, HE HAS NO RIGHT TO TELL ME TO DO ALL THIS!!

...
SFX: WHAM

KEEP THROWING LIKE THIS UNTIL SUMMER.
HEY... LET'S WRAP THIS UP FOR TODAY.
YOU'VE THROWN A LOT ALREADY.
OH WELL ...
PLEASE LET ME THROW A BIT MORE.
I BEG YOU.
HIS EYES ARE BLAZING ...
Win
Nationals
JUST TEN MORE BALLS THEN.

HE IS JUST LIKE A WILD WOLF WHO WANTS TO PITCH SOME BALLS.
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT FURIYA-SAN TO HAVE THAT SORT OF FACIAL EXPRESSION.
I THOUGHT HE WAS A COOL PERSON...
WHOA ~~~~

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
ガチャ
TAKIGAWA CHIUS
SHUT UP, WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS NOW!
ビ
ー
!
YOU...
DON'T TELL ME... YOU'VE BEEN PRACTICING UNTIL THIS TIME?

ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! IT'S ALREADY 10PM!!
WHAT !?
CHRIS-SENPAI.. PLEASE HELP ME PRACTICE PITCHING.
...
WITH THIS, ARE YOU WILLING TO CATCH MY PITCHES NOW?
THIS...
I'VE FINISHED IT ALL.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE ON PAR WITH US THIRD YEARS WITH JUST THAT?
...HN!
...
...
HUH?
364 DAYS LEFT...
IF YOU CONTINUE THAT MENU FOR THE NEXT 364 DAYS...
I WILL THEN ACKNOWL-EDGE YOUR HARD WORK.

ONE YEAR YOU SAY?
IF YOU KEEP UP WITH THAT MENU FOR EVERY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING 364 DAYS
I'LL RECOGNIZE YOUR EFFORT
SFX: DAAAAAASSSSSH
WON'T YOU HAVE GRADUATED BY THEN?!
DO YOU DETEST ME THAT MUCH!?
ダイヤのA
CHAPTER 20/ MONSTER'S DEBUT

HURRYING OFF~
EH!?
H-HEY WAIT A MINUTE
YES!
GOOD WORK!
PANT PANT
YES!

STU
NNED

5 MINUTES LATER...
AH!
HEwwy! EIJI-KUN!

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT..
THAT FELLA HE'S HEADING BACK FIRST AHEAD OF US AGAIN -
YES!
GOOD WORK!

WHAT!?
EARLIER, A SENIOR NAMED CHRIS HANDED THIS TO ME
THIS IS A NEW MENU, HE SAID TO TELL YOU.

IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU OUT.
THIS TIME IS STILL THE MOST DEPENDABLE ONE!
LET'S FLY, PAPYRUS!

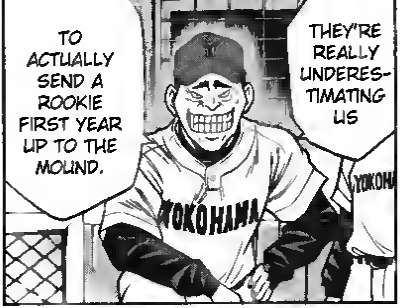
SFX: WOAAAAAH!
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?!
WHO'S INTERESTED?!

HEY, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW IS THE KANTOU TOURNAMENT
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO?
IT SEEMS LIKE ALL MEMBERS ARE OBLIGED TO ATTEND
I don't want to go
HAHA... I KNOW
CHUCKLE
RIGHT NOW, WE ONLY GET TO SIT IN THE STANDS
SO I UNDERSTAND THAT FEELING OF DISSATISFACTION.
BUT... THE FUTURE RIVALS WE HAVE TO FACE MIGHT APPEAR IN THIS COMPETITION YOU KNOW.
CHECKING OUT THE ENEMY ISN'T A BAD PLAN...
!

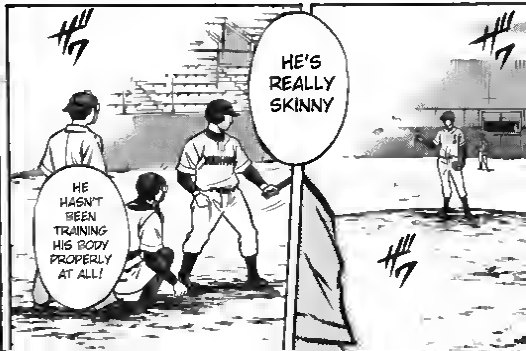
KANTOU TOURNAMENT PRELIMINARIES
SEIDO (TOKYO) - YOKOHAMA KOUHOKU INSTITUTE (KANAGAWA)
WHOA, SEIDOU IS LOSING
SFX. CROWD CHEERING
END OF THE SEVENTH INNING, AND THEY'RE DOWN BY FOUR POINTS
UMPIRE
PL 18 28 38
TN

GO TEAM!
AT ANY RATE, THE OPPONENT IS KANAGAWA'S VETERAN, YOKOHAMA KOUHOKU INSTITUTE
HOWEVER STRONG THE SEIDOU LINEUP IS, CLOSING THAT FOUR POINT GAP IS GOING TO BE REALLY TOUGH
SFX. CROWD CHEERING
WELL, UP TILL THE SIXTH INNING, TANBA PITCHED WELL.
BUT YOKOHAMA HAS CAUGHT UP IN THE SEVENTH.
AS EXPECTED, THE CRUX OF THE GAME LIES IN THE STRENGTH OF THE PITCHER
FIRST HALF OF THE EIGHTH INNING, SEIDOU PITCHER CHANGE.
HUH? PITCHER CHANGE?
BUT, OTHER THAN TANBA, WHO CAN STAND AGAINST THE YOKOHAMA LINEUP?
THE EIGHTH INNING SUBSTITUTE FOR TANBA IS-

PITCHER FURUYA!
PITCHER FURUYA!
TO PLAY A FIRST YEAR IN SUCH AN IMPORTANT MATCH...
FURUYA SATORU!?
HEY, THIS KID'S JUST A FIRST YEAR!
SFX: CROWD ROARING
IS SEIDOU THROWING IN THE TOWEL?



SFX: YES, THE CROWD IS STILL YELLING THEIR HEADS OFF



THUD
ON THIS DAY
EXHALE
HAHAHA!
THEN WON'T YOU BE KIND?
IN THE HEARTS OF THE GATHERED CONTEND-ERS OF KANTOU
THE IMAGE OF A SINGLE MAN WAS INDELIBLY ENGRAVED.

SFX ABOVE BAM!
SFX WIND HOWLING

SFX: SLAM, SLAM, SLAM
SFX: ROAR
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THE OPPONENT IS JUST A FIRST YEAR!
DON'T HIT THOSE HIGH BALLS!

SFX: SLAM
WOOOOOOOOOOOO
SFX: COMMOTION
SEIDOU ISN'T FOOLING AROUND, HE'S A MONSTER REINCARNATED!
THAT KID HAS STRUCK OUT FIVE YOKOHAMA BATTERS CONSECUTIVELY!
IM-IMPOSSIBLE!
WHOA!
OOOHHH...

HE'S SO STRONG, HE SHOULD JUST STRIKE OUT THE LAST BATTER.
Bap
WHICH MIDDLE SCHOOL DID HE COME FROM...
FURUYA WAS IT? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT NAME!
SFX CROWD ROARS
STRIKE HIM OUT!
STRIKE HIM OUT!
STRIKE HIM OUT!
STRIKE HIM OUT!
TO BE LED TO SWING TO THIS GUY'S BALL PITCHES
FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN BAT THE PITCHES OF A PITCHING MACHINE EVERYDAY
IS THAT THE EXTENT OF THE PRESSURE OF THIS GUY'S PITCHES ?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS...
WE'RE THE ONES LEADING THE GAME, YOU KNOW!!
STRIKE HIM OUT!
STRIKE HIM OUT!
YOKOHAMA

STRIKE HIM OUT!
HAHA... YOU REALLY CAN'T TELL THAT HE'S A FIRST YEAR LIKE US...
N999H!
STRIKE HIM OUT!
STRIKE HIM OUT!
SFX: CROWD ROARING
DESTROYING THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF AN OPPONENT WITH A SINGLE OVERAWING PITCH
THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND FURUYA LIES.
WHY YOU...
SFX: CROWD ROARING
HAVEN'T I SAID IT BEFORE?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BECOME SEIDOU'S ACE PITCHER.

AS LONG AS FURUYA'S ON THE TEAM...
SFX: SLAM
AS ALWAYS, HE'S PITCHING THESE NASTY BALLS
HAHA...
AS A RESULT, IT SHOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR THE BATTER TO DETERMINE'S THE BALL'S ROUTE
ON TOP OF THAT, THEY'RE ERRATIC

Stretch
PITCH WHATEVER BALL YOU LIKE!
JUST ONE MORE PERSON...
SFX: CROWD ROARING
THOSE TWO ARE A BATTERY, DON'T YOU THINK?
He He He
THANKS TO MIYUKI, FURUYA IS PITCHING WITH EASE.
NODS
Excited
Excited
WELL...
....

SFX: CROWD ROARING
AS THINGS STAND, FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS YOU'LL ONLY MANAGE TO BE HIS RESERVE.
OR WILL YOU LEAVE THE SCHOOL AND AIM TO BE THE ACE OF ANOTHER?
Y-YOU'RE IN THE SECOND STRING TEAM LIKE ME...
TO BE REPLACED BY A SECOND YEAR IN THE MAIN TEAM DOESN'T BOTHER YOU?
YOU HEAD HOME AFTER PRACTICE ENDS.
IF YOU'RE AIMING FOR THE FIRST STRING, SHOULDN'T YOU BE PERSEVERING HARDER THAN ANYONE ELSE?
GOOD WORK.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GIVEN UP, ON RETURNING TO THE FIRST STRING!
SO I DON'T WANT TO BE LECTURED BY YOU!
SFX. SLAM
NO MATTER HOW HIGH THE WALL IS
I'LL NEVER BECOME A SOULESS PLAYER LIKE YOU!

AND HE'S OUT! THE SIXTH PLAYER STRUCK OUT IN A CONSECUTIVE STRING!
T-THAT GUY IS A MONSTER!
SFX: CROWD SCREAMING THEIR HEADS OFF
WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON SEIDOU THIS YEAR.
A STRONG PLAYER HAS EMERGED FROM SEIDOU!
HEY, DID YOU RECORD ALL THAT?

...
WITH THIS FIRST YEAR DOING SO MUCH, WE HAVE TO WIN!
HYA HA HA!
THIS BRAT REALLY DID IT!
PUNCH
NICE PITCH!
LEAVE THE REST TO US...
SFX YEAH!
オオ!
LET'S TURN THIS GAME!
SFX. CROWD ROARS AND ROARS
GIVEN UP ON THE FIRST STRING...
ALTHOUGH YOU'RE AN IDIOT, YOU HIT THE MARK.

SO DON'T BECOME LIKE ME...
SAWAMURA...
HUH!?

WHIRL
WHIRL
YESTERDAY'S MATCH WAS INTERESTING.
WATCHING THE 9TH INNING OF THE MATCH GAVE ME GOOSEBUMPS.
EVEN THOUGH WE LOST THE GAME, WE COULD STILL FORCE YOKOHAMA TO THAT EXTENT.
LOOKS LIKE WE MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE AT KOSHIEN THIS YEAR!
Ace of Diamond
EVEN THOUGH HE SAID THAT SO EASILY...
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO HIM?
...
WHIRL
WHIRL
DON'T EVER BECOME LIKE ME...
SAWAMURA

CHAPTER 21/ BIG IDIOT

SAWAMURA!
YOU'VE GOT TO COVER BETTER!
Pinch
SORRY...
Droop
DON'T LOOK DOWN ON BASEBALL!
anger
WHAT KIND OF BASEBALL WERE YOU PLAYING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
HOW THE HECK DID THAT GUY GET INTO SEIDOU?
....
WHEN THE BALL'S PASSED HOME, YOU'LL NEED TO COVER THERE!
NOT THERE!
jOLT
....
GET SERIOUS!
WHILE WE HAVE TO RUN HERE!
This sucks...
Huff
Huff
WHY DID THAT GUY WITH NO BASEBALL KNOWLEDGE LIKE HIM GET PROMOTED TO THE SECOND STRING?

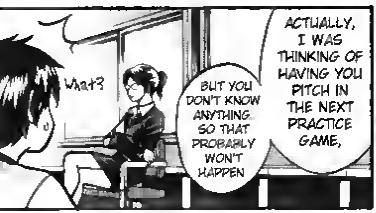
DON'T YOU DARE CRY!
upset
CONFUSED
CONFUSED
STOP LOOKING AROUND LIKE THAT!
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
OSU!
OSU!
AFTER WATCHING THE GAME, DID YOU FEEL THAT THERE IS MUCH YOU CAN LEARN FROM WATCHING?
HOW WAS IT? DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T WATCH PRO-BASEBALL?

BASEBALL IS A NINE MAN SPORT.
THERE IS A LOT MORE TO IT THAN JUST BATTING AND FIELDING.

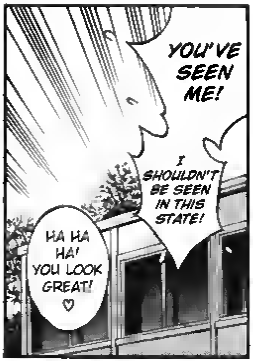
...

Anger

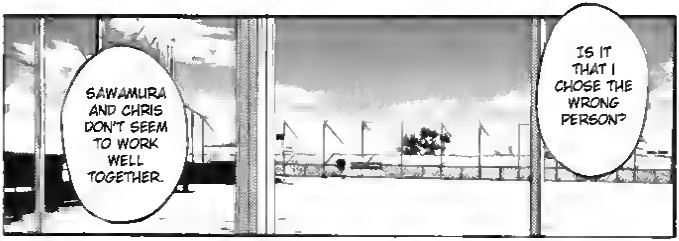
I ASSIGNED YOU TO CHRIS AS A PARTNER IN THE HOPES THAT YOU'D LEARN THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HAVE YOU LEARNT ANYTHING FROM HIM?


ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING OF HAVING YOU PITCH IN THE NEXT PRACTICE GAME.
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING SO THAT PROBABLY WON'T HAPPEN
Wait?

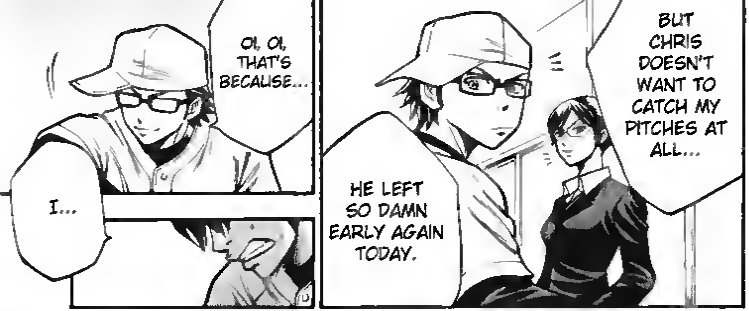
EXCUSE ME, COULD I HAVE A LOOK AT THE SCORE BOOK?
CREEEEEAK


YOU'VE SEEN ME!
I SHOULDN'T BE SEEN IN THIS STATE!
HA HA HA! YOU LOOK GREAT! ♡

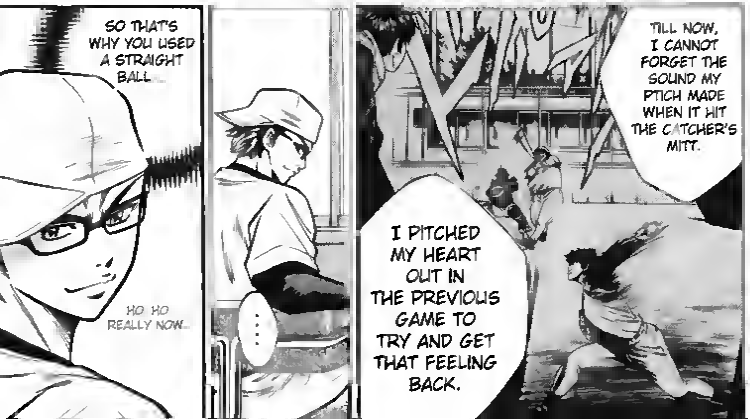
AH!


SAWAMURA AND CHRIS DON'T SEEM TO WORK WELL TOGETHER.
IS IT THAT I CHOSE THE WRONG PERSON?

FUUME
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE CHRIS ISN'T THE TYPE THAT'LL OPEN UP TO OTHERS.
SMILE
THAT'S WHY I PARTNERED CHRIS TO SAWAMURA.
....
AND HE HAS GOOD JUDGEMENT WHEN IT COMES TO PLAYERS
BUT OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM RIGHT NOW, HE IS PROBABLY THE ONE WHO KNOWS THE MOST ABOUT BASEBALL.


OI, OI, THAT'S BECAUSE...
I...
BUT CHRIS DOESN'T WANT TO CATCH MY PITCHES AT ALL...
HE LEFT SO DAMN EARLY AGAIN TODAY.

I WANT YOU TO CATCH MY PICTHES!


SO THAT'S WHY YOU USED A STRAIGHT BALL...
HO HO REALLY NOW...
....
I PITCHED MY HEART OUT IN THE PREVIOUS GAME TO TRY AND GET THAT FEELING BACK.
TILL NOW, I CANNOT FORGET THE SOUND MY PTICH MADE WHEN IT HIT THE CATCHER'S MITT.

I DON'T WANT TO PARTNER WITH A PERSON WHO HAS NO DRIVE!
I DON'T WANT!
I BELIEVE YOU'LL GROW UNDER HIM.
NO NEED TO BE HASTY...
WHY CAN THAT SORT OF GUY STILL REMAIN ON THE TEAM?
IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO PLAY, HE SHOULD JUST GET OUT!
GRAB

SFX. SLAM
!
EH?
AFTER THAT GAME,
YOUR STRONG AMBITION TO RISE UP TO THE FIRST STRING IS CRYSTAL CLEAR TO US SECOND AND THIRD YEARS
BUT I CANNOT FORGIVE THE WORDS YOU JUST SAID!

ALRIGHT
EXCUSE ME, I'LL BE BORROWING THIS
CHE!
MIYUKI...
SFX: SLAM
...

SFX: WHOOOSH
MIYUKI'S ANGER IS NOT UNFOUNDED.
stunned
....
BECAUSE AS A CATCHER, THE ONE HE RESPECTS THE MOST WAS CHRIS.

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE ONLY TEAM MIYUKI LOST AGAINST,
WAS LED BY CHRIS.
WHUMPH
SO WE HOPED CHRIS, WITH HIS EXTENSIVE BASEBALL KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAD THE TEAM TO VICTORY,
CHRIS' FATHER IS ACTIVE IN THE JAPAN PRO-BASEBALL SCENE
WHAT?
BUT THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM SEEMED TO FORM AN INVISIBLE PRESSURE,
AND SO HE REPEATEDLY HID HIS SHOULDER INJURY AND PLAYED IN GAMES.

ALTHOUGH INJURIES ARE SOMETHING EVERY SPORTSMAN HAS TO DEAL WITH...
BUT US TRAINERS DID NOT REALIZE IT BEFORE IT BECAME TOO SERIOUS...
SFX: STOP
TRAINING
THIS PLACE IS...
ONCE MORE!
TEN MORE SINGLE-HAND DUMBBELL RAISINGS!
STUN
...

!
SLOWER!
USE YOUR MUSCLE TO RAISE IT...
DON'T HURRY! TAKE IT SLOWLY!
BUT COACH KATAOKA ALWAYS ASKED CHRIS TO STAY IN THE POSITION OF MANAGER, TO GUIDE THE TEAM...
IN A LARGE TEAM SUCH AS SEIDOU'S, LEAVING THE TEAM FOR A YEAR IS AS GOOD AS ANNOUNCING ONE'S RETIREMENT FROM THE TEAM.
ONE LAST TIME!
Ba-Bump
* TN NOTE: AN AREA NEAR HIS SHOULDER AND AN AREA NEAR HIS WRIST. HENCE, CHRIS CANNOT THROW
JUST BEFORE THE SUMMER TOUNAMNET, HE WAS DIAGNOSED AND INFORMED THAT HE WOULD NEED TO TAKE A YEAR OFF FOR REHABILITATION.
HE TORE HIS SUBSCAPULARIS TENDON AS WELL AS THAT OF HIS PRONATOR QUADRUTUS.*

BUT, AS LONG AS A SINGLE STRAND OF HOPE REMAINS...
HE WILL NEVER GIVE UP ON BASEBALL.
HMPH... YOU THINK YOU CAN SIT AS AN EQUAL TO US THIRD YEARS?
Y-YOU'RE KIDDING ME...
Ba-Bump

I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING, AND SAID SOMETHING SO RUDE...
I'M NEVER GOING TO BECOME A WEAK-SPIRITED PLAYER LIKE YOU!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO QUIT TRYING TO GET INTO THE FIRST STRING, RIGHT?
DON'T BE LIKE ME, SAWAMURA...
BUT... WHY DID HE.. SAY THOSE WORDS TO ME?
Don't Play with me!
DAMN IT...

SAWAMURA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SFX: SLAM
STEP
...
DAMN IT...
DON'T PLAY...
DAMNIT...
TELL ME WHY!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING EVEN AFTER BEING MALIGNED BY A FIRST YEAR LIKE ME?!

WON'T THAT MAKE ME A BIG IDIOT?
SOB
...
KNEEL
ALTHOUGH THE TRAINING I'VE BEEN THROUGH PALES IN COMPARISON TO THAT OF THE THIRD YEARS,
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE I'M AN IDIOT, SO I DIDN'T MANAGE TO UNDERSTAND ANYTHING YOU SAID!

Ouuuuuuu....
SFX. WHACK
WHAT ARE YOU
....
ALTHOUGH TRAINING WITH THIS STUPID FIRST YEAR COULD BE JUST A WASTE OF YOUR TIME!
BUT I STILL WANT TO BEG YOU!

CAN YOU...
TEACH ME TO PLAY BASEBALL?

I BEG OF YOU!
PLEASE TEACH ME HOW TO PLAY BASEBALL!

DON'T TELL ME HE IS ONE OF YOUR TEAMMATES FROM THE TEAM?
WHAT IS THIS? WHO IS THIS CRAZY GUY?

IF YOUR SHOULDERS ARE INJURED AGAIN, YOUR LIFE AS A PLAYER WILL BE WASTED!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO RETURN TO THE BASEBALL SQUAD?
I HAD FORBIDDEN YOU TO PICK UP BASEBALL AGAIN BEFORE THE HIGH SCHOOL PRELIMINARIES!
BRAT... DON'T EVER APPROACH MY SON AGAIN!
IF YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND BASEBALL, PLEASE FINISH READING UP THIS ENTIRE BOOK FIRST.

I ♡ JAPAN
J. Animaru M.
This is how I became successful in Japan.
江戸
CHECK OUT THE SECRET LIFE OF THE WESTERN GENERAL THAT CAME HERE TO STAY & FOR A LIVING.
Animaru is a real warrior!
Mr. Dava Nakakubo Approves

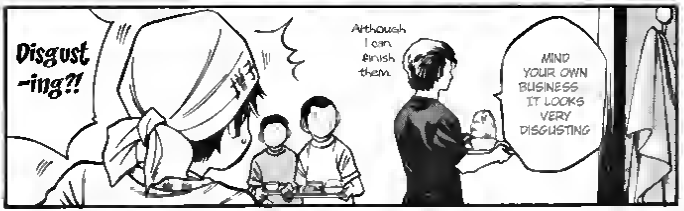
(TL note: Vagabond) (Shirt), (TL note: Important ceremonial occasions in family relationships) (Pan)

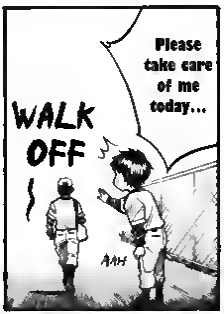
Chapter 22: A Catcher's Mission

CHATTER
CHATTER
SHUD
DER

GASP
HEY.. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

T/N : Masuko Sake Store (Cloth on top of Sawamura's head)





DRAMATIC APPEAR-ANCE
CHRIS-SEMPAI, THANKS FOR YOUR HARD-WORK!
HEY! THIS IS THE THIRD YEAR'S CLASS-ROOMS!
CHAT TER
WHO IS THIS PERSON?
CHRIS-KLIN' DISCI-PLE?
CHAT TER
CHAT TER
CHAT TER
GUILT SHOCK
IT'S SO DIRTY HAVE YOU BEEN THROWING THEM AROUND?
Like what you did to my father's book?
ARE THERE ANY MORE TRAINING SCROLLS ?
HAVE YOU MADE THE THIRD SCROLL YET?
NO! NO! NO!
HOW DO I DO THAT?

HUH?
TWICE A WEEK...
IT WILL HAVE NO EFFECT IF YOU DO IT TOO MUCH
UH... TWICE ?
THAT IS WHY EVERY WEEK, YOU WILL HAVE TO DO BOTH GUIDES TWICE
YOU ARE NOT FULLY USING YOUR ENTIRE BODY
...
YOU STILL NEED TO LEARN ON HOW TO REST YOUR BODY
A REAL TRAINING DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU HAVE TO TRAIN TO YOUR BONES
Y... YES!

AND STOP TAILING ME... IT'S IRRITATING...

HE'S REALLY HARD TO PERSUADE...
I REALLY GOT WHAT I DESERVED...

...
JOLT

WHERE SHOULD I HIDE THESE?
HMM...

!!
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE

WH... WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU? WHY ARE YOU JUST SITTING THERE!?
WAH..

HEH HEH HEH!
JUST AS I SUSPECTED...
WHY ARE YOU OBEDIENTLY SITTING AT THE STUDY DESK...?
WHAT HAPPENED? HAVE YOU BEEN ABANDONED BY YOUR GIRLFRIEND FROM YOUR HOMETOWN?
I HAVE TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT BASEBALL!
I CAN'T CLIMB TO THE TOP WITH JUST PASSION ALONE...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU READING?!
HEHE DID YOU KNOW? SEEMS LIKE MASAOKA SHIKI GAVE SHORTSTOP ITS NAME!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHO'S MASAOKA?
SEISHIN HOSTEL
Y-YOU JUST REALIZED THAT NOW?

Sfx: Zoomed
Sfx: Wham

HEY, ISN'T THAT FURUYA SATORU THE ONE EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT?
UPCLOSE, HIS PITCHES ARE TRULY FRIGHTENING!
AREN'T TANPA'S PITCHES ALSO GETTING BETTER...?
I HEARD THAT IT WAS A CLOSE FIGHT WITH YOKOHAMA HIGH. LOOKS LIKE IT'S TRUE.
THIS YEAR'S SEIDOU HIGH DEFINITELY CAN'T BE UNDEREST-IMATED.
ALRIGHT... LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
HUH? LET'S DO SOME MORE...
NO, YOUR STAMINA ISN'T UP TO IT...
GO RUN FOR NOW!
SILENCE
...
HEY, DON'T ACT LIKE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME!

I HEARD THAT HE WANTED TO OBSERVE.
HEY.. WHAT IS THAT GUY DOING HERE BY HIMSELF?
DID HE GIVE UP ON THE TRAINING?
WHAT? HE'S JUST BEING LAZY!

THROW
SECOND BASE, THROW THE BALL TO SECOND!
BAM
THE PITCHER CANNOT SEE THE RUNNER THAT IS WHY YOU NEED TO HELP THE PITCHER BY TELLING HIM WHERE TO THROW THE BALL!
HEY... THE INSTRUCTION GIVEN JUST NOW WAS TOO SLOW!
BY JUST STANDING AT THE SIDELINES AND LOOKING AT THEM AGAIN
I FOUND OUT THAT EVERYONE IS REALLY AMAZING...
S... SORRY...
YES!
THE SHORT-STOP'S POSITION-ING IS ALSO TOO SLOW!
EVERY PLAYER HAS THEIR OWN ROLE TO PERFORM.
IN ORDER TO PERFECT A STRATEGY ...

HOW TO PLAY DEFENSE AS A TEAM...
THIS IS...

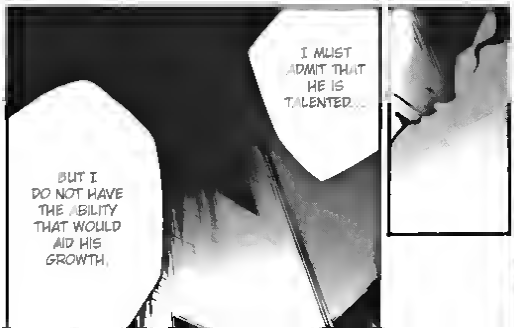
HEHE. IT LOOKS LIKE MIYUKI-KUN'S ANGER REALLY HELPED A LOT
HE FINALLY DISCOVERED WHAT HE WAS LACKING AND HE IS FINALLY TRYING TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE OF IT.
SMILE
WHAT'S LEFT...
IS TO COMMUNICATE WITH CHRIS, THE CATCHER..
DAMMIT! WHAT IS WITH THAT BRAT?
SEIDOU SURE PICKED UP AN IDIOT INTO THE TEAM!
DON'T BE TAKEN IN BY THAT BRAT!
日立トレーニングセ

DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SQUAD. BEFORE THE PRELIMINARIES, YOU JUST HAVE TO BUILD UP YOUR OWN BODY.
YOUR LIFE AS A BASEBALL PLAYER HAS JUST BEGUN!

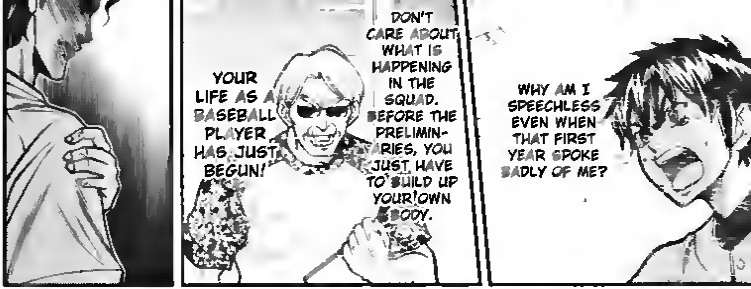
YOU JUST GOT BACK?
YOU HAVE IT TOUGH!
WI SH
LOOKS LIKE SAWAMURA HAS BEEN STALKING YOU EVERY DAY, RIGHT?
YEAH IT'S ANNOYING
HA HA HA.
EVEN THOUGH THAT FELLOW IS AN IDIOT, HE HAS BEEN TRAINING SERIOUSLY!
THERE YOU GO!
JUST TODAY HE WAS WORKING HARD BY OBSERVING THE TEAM'S DEFENCE PRACTICES
CHRIS-SEMPAI, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT BRAT?
NABS

TO A CATCHER, THAT UNPREDICTABLE PITCHER IS SOMEHOW ALLURING, RIGHT?
Click
UNPOLISHED TALENT TOGETHER WITH THAT FAST EVOLVING BALL...

THOSE WHO CAN BRING OUT THE HIDDEN POTENTIAL IN THAT IDIOT WOULD ONLY BE US CATCHERS!


I MUST ADMIT THAT HE IS TALENTED...
BUT I DO NOT HAVE THE ABILITY THAT WOULD AID HIS GROWTH.

THIS IS THE PART WHICH THIS YEAR'S SQUAD SHOULD FOCUS ON...
HOW DO WE GET TANPA AND FURUYA TO PITCH A GOOD BALL?
RISE
YOU WILL HAVE TO WORK HARD!
NUMBER ONE CATCHER!
CHRIS-SEMPAI
...


YOUR LIFE AS A BASEBALL PLAYER HAS JUST BEGUN!
DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SQUAD. BEFORE THE PRELIMINARIES, YOU JUST HAVE TO BUILD UP YOUR OWN BODY.
WHY AM I SPEECHLESS EVEN WHEN THAT FIRST YEAR SPOKE BADLY OF ME?

To be continued in vol.4

LATELY THE RATE OF MISTAKES IS INCREASING... (SORRY ABOUT IT). WHEN I WAS STILL A PITCHER I DIDN'T LIKE TO OBSERVE THE MATCH AND JUST WANTED TO ENJOY THE MATCH LIKE SAWAMURA; AFTER, WHEN I BECAME A MANGAKA, I REALIZED THAT OBSERVING OTHER PEOPLE IS IMPORTANT. (IT LOOKS LIKE I FOUND OUT ABOUT IT TOO LATE!) THINKING BACK, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I COULD UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT BASEBALL, IF I COULD PRACTICE ONCE MORE...
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